

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAM-01 ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2170

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652 N/A

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS RE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: COLOMBO 0277

1. SUMMARY PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE TOLD ME SHE IS ALREADY ACTIVELY PLANNING FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO IN SEPTEMBER 1976. SHE IS DETERMINED TO INSURE THAT IT IS WELL-ORGANIZED AND ATTAINS MEANINGFUL RESULTS AS CONTRASTED WITH POORLY-ORGANIZED ALGIERS MEETING WHERE HASTILY DRAFTED RESOLUTIONS WERE OFTEN RAILROADED THROUGH. SHE HOPES TO CUT DOWN ON FORMAL SPEECHES AND CONCENTRATE ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTER WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING NON-ALIGNED WORLD. SHE HAS DISCUSSED HER IDEAS WITH
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TITO, INDIRA GANDHI AND KAUNDA AND PLANS FURTHER

DISCUSSIONS AT FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH PRIME
MINISTERS' MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE SHARED SOME OF HER
VIEWS ON NEXT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WITH ME DURING MY
JANUARY 29 MEETING WITH HER. SUBJECT OF SUMMIT, SCHEDULED
FOR COLOMBO IN SEPTEMBER 1976, CAME UP DURING PM'S
BRIEF COMMENTS ON RECENT VISIT OF ZAMBIAN
PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHICH SHE SAID HAD GONE VERY WELL
(REFTEL). SHE OBSERVED THAT SRI LANKA AND ZAMBIA
LACKED CLOSE TIES AND HAD LITTLE OR NO TRADE BUT
KAUNDA WAS IMPORTANT FIGURE IN NON-ALIGNED WORLD
AND HIS VISIT HAD BEEN USEFUL IN PREPARING FOR NON-
ALIGNED SUMMIT. IN ADDITION TO ENABLING HER TO
TALK OVER BROADER ASPECTS OF SUMMIT WITH KAUNDA,
GSL OFFICIAL HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS PROCEDURAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEVERAL MEM-
BERS OF KAUNDA'S ENTOURAGE WHO HAD HANDLED ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR LUSAKA NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN 1970.

3. MRS. BANDARANAIKE SAID SHE WAS DETERMINED TO INSURE
THAT SUMMIT IN COLOMBO WOULD BE WELL-ORGANIZED AND
WOULD RESULT IN MEANINGFUL SUBSTANTIVE RESOLU-
TIONS. RECALLING THAT SHE HAD ATTENDED ALL FOUR
PREVIOUS SUMMITS, SHE SAID ALGIERS MEETING WAS
UNQUESTIONABLY POOREST. ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT-
ING DELEGATIONS AND PRESS WERE UNSATISFACTORY.
DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN PRESENTED LOOSELY DRAFTED RESO-
LUTIONS, PREPARED BY ALGERIAN HOSTS AND FEW OTHERS,
WHICH WERE OFTEN RECEIVED AT LAST MINUTE WITH VIR-
TUAL DEMAND THAT THEY BE APPROVED IN NAME OF NON-ALIGNED
SOLIDARITY. THESE RESOLUTIONS, OFTEN ADOPTED
WITHOUT ANY STUDY OR REAL DEBATE, WERE THEN
POINTED TO IN UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER FORA AS
HOLY WRIT.

4. PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHE HAD ALREADY
BEGUN TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR MORE ORDERLY CONFERENCE
NEXT TIME. SHE PROPOSED TO TRY TO CUT DOWN ON SPEECHES
BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WHICH WERE DESIGNED PRIMARILY
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FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND WERE OFTEN DELIVERED TO VIR-
TUALLY EMPTY HALLS. SHE ALSO PLANNED TO MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO INSURE THAT RESOLUTIONS FOR COLOMBO MEETING
WERE CIRCULATED TO PARTICIPANTS AT LEAST MONTH IN ADVANCE
ATUQ TO ARRANGE TO HAVE OFFICIALS MEET IN ADVANCE TO
CONSIDER PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IN HOPE THEY COULD BE
PRESENTED TO PRINCIPALS AS WELL-THOUGHT-OUT DOCUMENTS.

5. NOTING THAT CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL DISPUTES SUCH AS PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, AND POSSIBLY EVEN ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION, WOULD BE LESS PROMINENT ISSUES AT NEXT SUMMIT, MRS BANDARANAIKE SAID SHE HOPED COLOMBO MEETING WOULD FOCUS LARGELY ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BECUASE OF MARKED CHANGES WITHIN NON-ALIGNED WORLD ITSELF AS RESULT AFFLUENCE OF OIL-PRODUCING STATES, MUCH GREATER CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AS TO HOW THEY MIGHT HELP ONE ANOTHER. ARAB COUNTRIES WERE SENSITIVE TO OIL PRICE ISSUE BEING RAISED BUT, NONETHELESS, THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED FRANKLY.

6. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SHE HAD DISCUSSED HER IDEAS RE NEXT SUMMIT WITH TITO DURING HER VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA LAST SEPTEMBER, WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI DURING HER STOPOVER IN NEW DELHI EN ROUTE BACK TO COLOMBO FROM IRAN IN OCTOBER, AND MOST RECENTLY WITH KAUNDA. ALL THREE HAD AGREED WITH HER APPROACH AND SHE HOPED TO DISCUSS HER IDEAS FURTHER AT FORTH-COMING PRIME MINISTERS MEETING IN JAMAICA.

7. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER I PERSONALLY THOUGHT HER IDEAS MADE SENSE. WE OF COURSE WERE OUTSIDE OBSERVERS OF NON-LIGNED SUMMITS, BUT I THOUGHT WE TOOK GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE VIEW OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT SO LONG AS NON-ALIGNED FORA WERE NOT USED PRIMARILY AS SOUNDING BOARD FOR INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES OF DEVELOPED NATIONS. WE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE TENDENCIES WITHIN UNITED NATIONS AND HAD SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THAT WITHIN CONTEXT INCREASINGLY INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPENDENT WORLD IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION INSTEAD OF EMPHASIZING CONFRONTATION. I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT SHE HOPED TO AVOID SOME OF EXCESSES OF ALGIERS MEETING AND WAS WORKING ON MORE ORDERLY AND SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS.
VAN HOLLEN

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